

The Morning Bulletin

Published every legal morning by The Bulletin Publishing Co., Ltd., at The Bulletin Building, 101-102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1920

The Breakdown of the Schools

Has the public school system of Canada broken down? The Minister of Education for Alberta is authority for certain statements of fact that point directly to that conclusion. Hon. Mr. Smith says: "From all over the province, I am receiving persistent reports come in that it is impossible to get students to settle earnestly upon their studies."

The occasion of the minister's statement is the results of the recent Alberta examination. The results of the examination of the candidates in grade VIII secured entrance standing as against approximately 75 per cent in each of the last two previous years. Not only is the percentage of pupils who have shown an active interest in their studies low, but it is markedly going down.

For the results of the examinations for teachers' qualifications, the picture is more disappointing. This brings up in pressing form the problem of teacher supply. The difficulty of procuring teachers by special exertions coupled with more relaxations of existing rules. Conditions in some of the schools are even worse than in Alberta Mr. Smith says. Obviously a serious condition exists. The question is: What is to be done about it?

As a rule every diseased condition has had a cause. Usually the first step in the search and remedy is to find the cause of the trouble. The public school system of Canada has broken down because the attention of the children attending cannot be successfully concentrated on their studies. With the attention of both teacher and children divided over such a wide range of subjects, many of the children would be needed to secure concentrated attention upon any one subject; and much more so on all subjects. Under the present system the number of studies has been multiplied so greatly that there is no possibility of the pupils reaching actual efficiency in any of them. The natural tendency of humanity is to cease effort to attain proficiency. As the number of studies has been increased and the variety widened interest has been necessarily slackened, the result shown by the examinations.

Present conditions are not the fruit of one year. They are the result of years of misdirected educational effort. Every day and every night an energetic canvasser could unload on a Provincial Board of Education. Educational reform has been so loaded. The burden has been added to that already borne by teachers and children until finally there has been a breakdown. Or rather the condition of breakdown that has existed for years cannot be longer concealed.

To learn to speak and write correctly is to become a measurably expert in arithmetic. It is formerly considered to be the chief reason for attendance at public schools. To doubt that the people who think that our schools are maintained to teach these things. To think that numbers or children have time to waste on the attainment of efficiency in such common matters. The public school is run as a preparatory to the high school and university; not as a place in which knowledge is imparted to the citizen in ordinary life can be secured.

How many of the candidates who have passed in the grade eight can write a readily legible hand at a fair rate of speed? How many of them can add a long column of figures quickly and correctly? How many speak with regard to the proper usage of the English language, with a dis-

tinued enunciation and correct pronunciation. Possibly ten per cent and possibly very much less. The public schools of Canada have been run by fanatics for fanatics long enough. The results have been deplorable, and are getting worse. Apparently the fanatical policy has been reached. It is to be hoped that Hon. Mr. Smith's frank statement of the case will lead to a more realistic attitude. It is to be hoped that the fanatical policy will be remedied, and that at last there will be some sense.

The Exchange Rate and Wheat

The reasons for the fluctuations in the rate of exchange are difficult to understand. But the facts are not. If we want to make a payment due in the United States the amount of the exchange in the United States money must be added to the amount of the bill. If after visiting the United States on our return we have with us any United States currency we find that it is worth as much more than its face value in Canadian currency as the exchange rate, less banking charges of course.

In comparing the price of any article in Canada and in the United States account must be taken of the rate of exchange. If the United States article is sold in Canada the exchange rate must be added to the price. If a Canadian article is sold in the United States the price received is with the exchange rate more than its face value, on being brought into Canada.

At the fall of 1919 when Canadian farmers residing near the boundary were hawking their wheat by team to United States markets, the exchange rate was worth to them the amount of the wheat landed in addition to the face value. When the exchange rate was ten per cent, if the farmer received a two-dollar United States bill for a bushel of wheat, he would have no trouble in raising his wheat. The exchange rate was two dollars bill was worth \$2.20 in Canadian money. Instead of getting \$2.00 for his bushel of wheat, he was getting \$2.20.

What applied to the case of the wheat hauled across the line by the Canadian farmer applied equally to wheat shipped by rail. Therefore when quoting the Minneapolis price for Canadian wheat, it is to be understood that the exchange must be added. Taking for convenience an average exchange rate of 10 per cent, the wheat quoted at \$2.00 in Minneapolis would be \$2.20 in Canadian money. The wheat hauled across the line to a bushel of wheat would have an average of \$2.80 on all grades or with exchange added \$3.08.

The Minneapolis market was open all year at the prices quoted in Monday's issue of The Bulletin. If the Canadian wheat crop was not sold there after December 15th the fault was that the Canadian wheat had been sold in the Minneapolis market. If half the estimated crop, or 75 million bushels had been sold before December 15th, 1919, when the U.S. market was removed, there still remained 75 millions more to sell, that with the exchange rate added, would have been sold at a profit to the price. On 75 million bushels at an estimated average price of \$2.80, the exchange at that time would not have been lost through the operations of the wheat board was therefore not 75 million dollars as stated in Monday's Bulletin but 77 millions.

A St. John Rumor

The Globe of August 4th prints a rumor that the St. John's Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, is likely to resign and be replaced by Hon. Mr. Smith. The rumor is likely to be true. If it is anything in the rumored rumor, it is far more likely to be true than the rumor that the St. John's Lieutenant Governor will be replaced by Hon. Mr. Smith.

TRIP ACROSS THE ATLANTIC IN 35 FOOT YAWL

Notice Record is Claimed in Trip from Newfoundland to Scilly Islands

Covers tale of what, Aug. 9—What a feat! A 35-foot yawl, the "Atlantic", has just completed a trip from Newfoundland to Scilly Islands, a distance of 1,000 miles, in 14 days and 9 hours. The crew consisted of three men, and the vessel was commanded by Captain H. H. H. H.

KINDNESS HONOR COURTESY LOYALTY OBEDIENCE

hounds, as it came forward.

Foxhounds were the first of British dogs to be scientifically bred, and they were bred for the chase. As a kennel man said in 1896, and the pedigrees of some hounds may be traced back for years.

In 1896 two couples sold for houndheads of claret. In 1903 a famous British pack sold for 50 pounds a hound.

Staghounds were derived from Bloodhounds, but seem to be extinct now, and replaced by foxhound, a large variety of which is employed for stag hunting.

• • •

TRIANGLE

A wee little angel, too tiny to fly
One morning at daylight she floated
outa 't' sky.
Kerplunk down our chimbly
bounced on the bed—
doctor man said—
When I last 'em.

His head was like gran'pa's, all in
an' bare;
He looked erful funny 'thout
his hair.
But 't' fire in 't' grate scorched
offen his head—
Or at least 'a's what 'ma an'
doctor man said
When I last 'em.

Mouth was like gran'ma's, wiv
a wee bit
of a gap in 't' middle
of 't' teeth
an' a wee bit
of a gap in 't' middle
of 't' teeth
an' a wee bit
of a gap in 't' middle
of 't' teeth

a loof;
 He lost 'em I guess, som'w up
 th' roof.
 When he fell from th' Milky
 Ifgh overhead—
 Or, at least 'at's what ma an
 doctor man said
 When I ast 'em.
 He looks like the "Kewpies"
 buy at the Kress,
 Wiv a ribbon around 'em in plac

But this one had triangle dra
instead—
Or, at least, 'at's what ma n
doctor man said
When I ast' 'em.
—Will Ferrell

otes do not like his saying, nor do not show themselves around district.—Larus Oliver.
Graminia, July 27, 1920.

about the English footsoul, in which I hope will interest you. A dog must be fine around the farm, coyotes can do a lot of damage to them, especially in stealing chickens—Uncle Tom.

* * *

First in His Class

Dear Uncle Tom— I, received badge and think it is very pretty. I live on a farm. We have quite a few young chickens. I shall be in the first class. I came first all round in grade 2.—Arlene Arnold, Torfield, Feb. 27, 1926.

—

Good for you old man. Keep up. That's the way to make a reputation for the Club. What kind of chickens have you? Are they bred?—Uncle Tom.

Pleanty of Wild Flowers

Dear Uncle Tom—I received your letter about the wild flowers badge and it is very pretty. My mother likes it very much. Let my brother, but he didn't catch that time because the creek was so full of water. I am in grade 2, but our school has a lot of flowers. The crocuses bloom now and everything is green. Our garden is beautiful. We have some very fine weeds.

Maeie McLeavelle
June 18, 1920.

Tell Lewis that I am sorry he caught the fish that time, but—well he has been successful. He has a lot of fish in his garden for Our Nature League. You can visit to get you up.—Uncle Tom.

Lake Shorecake

Dear Uncle Tom—I received your badge and like it fine. We are going to the lake soon. It will be a good time. I was at the Camporee and had a picnic at the shore. I hope you will go too. I have picked quite a lot of berries since we got home. I pick every day. I like them best as shorecakes. How do you like shorecakes? Tell Tom—Helen Thrope.

I am very fond of strawberry cake too, Helen, and Aunt Polly them to make a very good cake a strawberry being. They are good, don't you think, just with a sugar, and who likes straw

To Uncle Tom,
Care The Bulletin,
Edmonton.

birthday is on the day of
..... 192....

Our post office address is:

I promise to write at least one letter a month to the club, to wear the badge at all times, and to do all I can to promote the

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